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## **CLAIMS**

. A business method for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, the method including a computerized system performing the substantially asynchronous transactional steps of:

One) maintaining a registry of a plurality of users;

Two) maintaining a database of materials provided by the system to users of the plurality of users;

Three)using a substantially packet-based protocol over a distributed datacommunications topology, dommunicating with a user of the plurality of users,

- a) from the user, accepting a report of the users prior use of materials provided by the system, and
- b) from data in the report, convoluting an updated metric of use into respective materials records in the database; and

Four) from the database computing a quantification of royalty owner rights for at least one of the respective materials.

- 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein maintaining a database of materials provided includes providing the materials to the respective users, and the providing is by downloading via a distributed data-communications topology.
- 3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include a user-computer executable program for facilitating the user maintaining a report for subsequent reporting to the computer system.
- 4. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for reproduction as audio contents.

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- 5. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for reproduction as visual contents.
- 6. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for execution as computer software.
- 7. The method according to claim wherein the communicating with the user includes accepting a request for downloading a plurality of substantially new materials.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the users prior use includes an accounting of use since a most recent prior accepting from the user of a report of the users prior use.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the users prior use includes an accounting of cumulative use, substantially since becoming a user.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the users prior use includes an accounting of the users recent use during a predetermined proximate prior time interval.

11. The method according to claim 1 wherein maintaining a registry includes a respective profile for each user of a preponderance of the users in the registry.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein convoluting includes correlating the updated metric with the respective user profile.

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- 13. The method according to claim 1 wherein computing includes a predetermined contractual-based apportioning of royalty owner rights for reported use of respective materials by the user.
- 14. The method according to claim 1 wherein computing includes a predetermined contractual-based apportioning of royalty owner rights for reported use of respective materials by the plurality of user.
  - 15. The method according to claim 14 wherein apportioning is extrapolated to represent use by the entire plurality of users.
  - 16. An article of manufacture including a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, the computer readable program code in said article of manufacture including:
    - One) computer readable program code for causing a user computer to accept a download of materials from a remote computerized system;
    - Two) computer readable program code for causing the user computer to maintain a ledger of use of the downloaded materials; and
- Three)computer readable program code for causing the user computer to upload, to the remote computer system, a report including sums maintained in the ledger.
  - 17. The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded materials include computer software.
  - 18. The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded materials include data that can be converted into audio contents.
- 30 19. The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded materials include data that can be converted into visual contents.



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20. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, said method including a computerized system performing the substantially asynchronous transactional steps of:

- One) maintaining a registry of a plurality of users;
- Two) maintaining a database of materials provided by the system to users of the plurality of users;
- Three)using a substantial packet-based protocol over a distributed datacommunications topology communicating with a user of the plurality of users,
  - a) from the user, accepting a report of the users prior use of materials provided by the system, and
  - b) from data in the report, convoluting an updated metric of use into respective materials records in the database; and
- Four) from the database computing a quantification of royalty owner rights for at least one of the respective materials.